

FACTS ABOUT THE FLATS

COMPLETE REFUTATION OF INEXC
ABLE MISREPRESENTATIONS.

The Improvement Begun and Continued in Regular, Formal, Legal Manner—Proper Precautions Taken—Vindication of Officials.

Now that the official facts are made public it must strike all fair people as at least strange that for the purpose of retarding progress upon the great and important work of raising the Potomac flats the enemies of that work should have seen fit to resort to such a course.

facts thrown together below it will be perceived that any member of Congress could have obtained from government officers or the material facts which not only explain all circumstances which even ostensibly seemingly gave color to the intimations and innuendoes of wrong doing by persons in high places, as well as of questionable

On the 12th instant, "District Day" the House of Representatives, Chairman Barbour called up the bill, which I already passed the Senate, "to provide protecting the interests of the United States in the Potomac river flats, in the District of Columbia," and during the debate up that measure, participated in chiefly Messrs. Willis, Reagan, and Blount on one side, and Messrs. Barbour and

By Mr. Willis. We have been doing wrong and it is proposed we shall continue to wrong. Congress in 1882, when the first appropriation (for the flats improvement) was made directed the Attorney General to investigate the title and report. If he had done his duty then this claim would either have been settled or it could have been purchased at some reasonable price, if anything was due for it.

By Mr. Blount. The House is now confronted with the fact that the Department of Justice never went into that examination of title. The rights of the government which that provision of the bill sought to secure are utterly disregarded. * * * Circumstances

there has been a moving power misused Congress and bringing us into this humiliating position; that we have been spending our money in the interest of private individuals and in utter disregard to the rights of the Government of the United States. * * * Up to now the government has been a prey to cer-

dearly insured both Washington insiders, are continually having foisted upon us misleading statements. We should, we are now inquiring, go on with this work, and not backward, when the public treasure has been expended, it should turn out that there are only Kidwell claims, but casual claims, various others, what are we do but hang heads in shame that we have deliberately forward and brought this scandal upon House and upon the government? * * * to this hour these claimants have whipped government, and the government has left to the mercy of an improper administration of public affairs. You will find to-day

And yet each of those members knew that he was at least exaggerating. Willis had in his hand at that very moment correspondence which had been sent him as chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors, comprising, among other documents, a letter from the Attorney General "showing that steps have been

the United States to the Potomac against adverse claims thereto. Br stated, they embrace the examination consideration of the Kidwell claim other having been presented to the Atto General), the issue of instructions to b suit to annul the patent on which claim rests, and preliminary preparat for such suit."

The same letter from the Attorney General to the President is also reproduced in the correspondence, and both he and Willis alluded to certain other parts during the speeches in which they uttered the sentences which are quoted above.

ences, which neither Mr. Willis nor Blount seemed to regard as pertinent probably because they tended to weaken not to wholly refute the points the speakers were making.

for the filling up of said hats at the present time, I submit that, in the light of the information which I possess, I am unable to conceive wherein the government would incur any risk, or lose any advantages it now should such appropriation be made, especially if its expenditure be limited to those named.

I deem it proper to add, for the information of your committee, that the attorney representing the claimants under the Kidwell patent, M. F. Morris, esq., has recently addressed a letter (of which a copy is herewith transmitted) in which he proposes to "convey to the United States, by a good and sufficient deed, all their right, title, interest, and estate in the premises whatever they have, in and to the said patent, the right of sale, title, grant, and receipt, the benefit and use of the same, and hereby to surrender the same to the United States."

This letter was dated April 7, 1985, the information which this Democratic Attorney General possessed was sub-

publican Attorney General "advised" Secretary of War "that there was no obstacle to the expenditure of the appropriation" of 1884. And the Attorney General in 1884 emphasized his advice to the Secretary of War by stating:

In addition to the probability of the formation [by Attorney General Brewster,

The social documents prove that work up of the flats was begun properly, regular, normal, legal manner; that points were considered with reference to protection of the interests of the government; that the Secretary of War did duty and took proper precautions.

beginning the work, that he probably sought the Attorney General, and the latter official with equal promptness conferred with the directors of the law office, which authorized the beginning of the work of reclaiming the flats, and appropriated \$400,000 therefor. The documents prove that again in 1884 the acting Attorney General (Mr. Phillips), having ascertained what had two years previously been done by the Attorney General,

was no obstacle to the expenditure of a second appropriation (\$300,000 by the act of 1884), and Mr. Phillips, as before said, concluded his advice to go ahead with work by remarking that "the silence of Congress on this matter, in the act of July 1885, may very properly be taken as a *firmation*" of the correctness of Mr. Brainerd's contention in 1880.

The foregoing material will afford
for reflection for the members of the co-
ence committees while they are engag-
the attempt to harmonize the differ-
between the two houses upon the Se-
bill to protect the interest of the U-
States in the Potomac flats.

The Army Ordnance Armory Hall on 10th Street, on G Street, was additionally brilliant last night with an intelligent fashionable assembly, met to greet the Patton College Glee Club. Their concert welcomed by warm and almost continuous applause. The twelve students sang a

gard to the words of their songs and full expression to the meaning. Especially pleasing were the songs of "Sleep in Peace" and "Three Fishers." The college song of "hunkus" by its quority and other attract afforded much amusement. Mr. Goltra's blues were exceeding melodious and Mr. Zier's piano solos gave high gratification. The most musical portion of the audience.
